Governments this year and what is the Central Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) Various State Governments including Madhya Pradesh have been demanding additional allocations from time to time. However, it has not been possible to meet their demands fully due to continued constraint of funds for both development and maintenance of National Highways. Efforts continue to be made to keep the National Highways in traffic worthy conditions within available resources.

(c) An amount of Rs. 14.75 crore has been allocated for normal maintenance for the NHs in the State of Madhya Pradesh. However, the State Government have asked for an additional amount of Rs. 4.76 crore which will be considered only if additional funds are available.

Salient features of 'Save the tiger' campaign'

2423. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a "Save the Tiger" campaign has been launched on 1st October, 1995, on the eve of Mahatma Gandhi's birthday;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the campaign and its main objectives; and

(c) the steps so far taken and which are being taken now in pursuance of the campaign?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No such campaign was launched by the Government of India on 1st October, 1995.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Ban of trucks carrying extra foodgrains

2424. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exporters and transporters have urged the Government to lift the ban on truck carrying 25 per cent extra foodgrains;

(b) whether they have brought out the problems faced by them and the loss incurred by them in this regard; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have so far taken to remove the hurdles faced by farmers, exporters and transport companies connected with the transportation of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It has been stated in the representation that ceilings on the weight limits now prescribed by the Government have resulted in hardships and these should be relaxed. The ceilings under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 are not new but are the same, as have been in vogue since 1982. Overloading of the vehicles beyond the prescribed limits is considered to be a danger to the roads and also a major causative factor for road accidents. Therefore, no relaxations in these rules, have been made.

New Paddy Shelling Projects

2425. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the restrictions on shelling of paddy have been removed; if so, the details thereof;